



Dear Leaders of Israel:

We are writing to support Women of the Wall, and the right of women to raise their voices in prayer at the *Kotel*.

We are part of *Klal Yisrael* (the community of the Jewish people) and we wish to express our support and love for the State of Israel. We are, at the same time, deeply disturbed by the fact that women in Israel have been silenced and not permitted to pray aloud at the *Kotel*, while men may use their voices as they wish. Respectfully, we must state that it is a *booshah* (an embarrassment) that such a situation exists at the holiest site for our people, and we believe the situation is a violation of our mission as an “*or lagoyim*.” We respectfully submit that the State of Israel should be leading the way in honoring women’s rights, and instead, is doing the opposite.

We respectfully demand equal rights for Women of the Wall and all Jewish women who wish to pray at the *Kotel*. We request as well that the administration of the *Kotel* and the plans for refurbishing the *Kotel* and its environs be considered hand in hand with the needs and sensibilities of all Jews everywhere, keeping in mind that eighty-five percent of world wide Jewry pray with *kol isha* raised among them, and sometimes in leadership. Yes, there must be a place at the *Kotel* for those men and women who wish to pray in such a way as to not hear *kol isha*, but there must also be a place where *kol isha* can be raised in prayer.

It is Jerusalem and the *Kotel* to which we turn in prayer all over the world and in *Eretz Yisrael*. Please take every step possible to provide for the religious rights and sensibilities of all Jews at our holiest site.

Sincerely,
Vanessa L. Ochs
Associate Professor
WOW senior leadership